

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6991

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2810

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: CERDS

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR JOVA

1. AS YOU KNOW, U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE STRONG ADHERENTS TO CONCEPT THAT INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS ARE PRECISELY THAT AND SHOULD HAVE NO PARTICIPATION BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH. ACCORDINGLY, MY PRESENCE IN CAMPECHE WAS AS PERSONAL GUEST OF SPEAKER OF MEXICAN LOWER HOUSE, (AND CHIEF OF MEXICAN DELEGATION) CARLOS SANORES PEREZ, FOR HOLY WEEK VACATIONING AND TO ATTEND APPROPRIATE INTERPARLIAMENTARY SOCIAL EVENTS. MY WIFE AND I STAYED AT HOTEL TWENTY MILES OUT OF TOWN AND DID NOT ATTEND ANY OF THE SESSIONS. WE DID ATTEND EVENING SOCIAL EVENTS AND WERE ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH COMPONENTS OF BOTH DELEGATIONS.

2. AT DINNER AFTER CLOSING SESSION, SENATOR PERCY RECOUNTED TO ME ATTEMPTS MADE BY USDEL TO PERSUADE MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE WHICH MIGHT CALL FOR SOME WATERING DOWN OF PRESENT CERDS IN ORDER TO MEET U.S. NEEDS. MEXICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE AT FIRST NOT UNFAVORABLY INCLINED BUT SOON MADE IT CLEAR THAT ON THIS SUBJECT ORDERS COULD COME ONLY FROM THE TOP. PERCY OBSERVED THAT UNLIKE U.S. PURITY ON COMPOSITION OF SOLELY PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, MEXICANS ON THIS OCCASION WERE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR GALLARDO MORENO OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE

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(NOT YOUNG BUT WITH EXTENSIVE MULTILATERAL EXPERIENCE),

VICTOR ALFONSO MALDONADO OF THE PRESIDENCY (HE CARRIES TITLE OF CHIEF OF DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTS SERVICE AND IS VERY BRIGHT, YOUNG PARIS-TRAINED ECONOMIST), CARLOS DE LA PENA OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (A BRIGHT YOUNG EXPERT ON MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS WHO HAS ALSO PARTICIPATED IN PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEE TO REORGANIZE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM-ECONOMIC BRANCH), AND ONE OTHER MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIAL. EVEN THESE "ADVISORS" FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH COULD TAKE NO DECISION ON LANGUAGE BUT THEY CONSULTED LOS PINOS AT MEXICO CITY AND, AS I UNDERSTOOD STORY FROM SENATOR PERCY, FAUSTO ZAPATA REPEAT ZAPATA (IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENCY AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY AND ALSO A GENERAL CONFIDENTIAL HANDYMAN) TELEPHONED SENATOR PERCY TO SAY THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE POLITICALLY FOR MEXICAN SIDE TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS AT THIS TIME ON MEXICAN SOIL. AS I UNDERSTOOD STORY, ZAPATA HINTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN A DIFFERENT FORUM AND WITH ADEQUATE PREPARATION, ETC., IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD IN SEEKING COMPROMISE LANGUAGE, PARTICULARLY IF IT WERE NOT SOLELY A U.S./MEXICAN CONFRONTATION AND IF OTHER INTERNATIONAL PERSONAGES SIMILAR TO BRANDT WERE INCLUDED.

3. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THE PLANE BETWEEN CAMPECHE AND CANCUN, PAT HOLT AND BOB DOCKERY (OF SENATE AND HOUSE STAFFS) SHOWED ME DRAFT COMMUNIQUE WHICH THEY, TOGETHER WITH SENATOR PERCY AND CONGRESSMAN WRIGHT, WERE NEGOTIATING WITH MEMBERS OF MEXDEL. CONGRESSMAN WRIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ME THAT THEY WERE UNABLE TO ESTABLISH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY LANGUAGE ON CERDS AND MEXICANS SUGGESTED IT WAS PREFERABLE TO MAKE NO MENTION OF CERDS AT ALL IN COMMUNIQUE. I DID HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A COUPLE OF DISCREET CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS ON OTHER PORTIONS OF COMMUNIQUE, INCLUDING A WORD OF CAUTION AS TO THE PITFALLS OF THE PHRASE "ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW ECONOMIC ORDER" WHICH, IN FINAL TEXT, NOW APPEARS IN LOWER CASE LETTERS.

4. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA MET GROUP AT CANCUN AIRPORT WHERE A CEREMONY WAS HELD INAUGURATING SAME. HE MADE SPEECH
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WHICH, WHILE MAKING GRACEFUL REFERENCE TO VISITING U.S. PARLIAMENTARIANS AND SAYING ONE OR TWO NICE THINGS ABOUT U.S., WAS AT THE SAME TIME MORE NATIONALISTIC AND PINPRICKING THAN ONE WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR AT SUCH AN OCCASION. AT THE LUNCHEON HELD A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER, THERE WERE ONLY TWO SPEAKERS: ALEJANDRO SOBARZO SPOKE FOR THE MEXICAN SIDE AND GAVE A LOW-KEY ACCOUNT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEETING GOING, NEVERTHELESS, SOMEWHAT BEYOND THE

COMMUNIQUE IN PRESENTING MEXICAN VIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS (TO THE DISPLEASURE OF CONGRESSMAN BADILLO AND PERHAPS OTHERS WHO WERE FOLLOWING THE SPANISH CLOSELY); SENATOR MANSFIELD SPOKE FOR U.S. SIDE, SPEAKING OFF-THE-CUFF IN A RELAXED, INFORMAL MANNER AND CONCLUDING WITH A RATHER MOVING TRIBUTE TO ECHEVERRIA AND THE CHARTER. (THIS SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN UNPLANNED AND NOT NECESSARILY DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP). IT WAS SUCH A GRACEFUL AND WARM SPEECH, HOWEVER, THAT ALL WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DID NOT CHOOSE TO SAY A FEW WORDS IN PERSON BUT RATHER RETREATED TO PROTOCOL BY HAVING THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES THANK IN HIS NAME AND THAT OF MRS. ECHEVERRIA ALL THOSE PRESENT FOR COMPANY AND THEN DISMISSING THE MEETING.

5. THE FOREGOING, AS YOU CAN SEE, IS A SEMI-OUTSIDER'S VIEW OF WHAT TOOK PLACE AND YOU MAY GET A MORE ACCURATE FEEL BY SPEAKING TO HOLT, DOCKERY AND, OF COURSE, PERCY HIMSELF. JOVA

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